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Adenan: Government spends billions to address social problems

KUCHING: Social ills among teenagers must be addressed urgently to stop them from putting negative impact not only on society but also on the economy.

On this, Incoming Chief Minister Tan Sri Adean Satem cited drug abuse as among the problems that proved costly to the government.

"It has, direct or indirectly, caused the government RM8.65bil according to a study conducted by

Universiti Utara Malaysia in 2009," he said when speaking at the closing of a three-day state-level 1Malaysia Club Workshop held at Yayasan Sarawak here yesterday.

His text of speech was read by Assistant Minister in the Chief

Minister's Office (Bumiputera Entrepreneur Development) Datuk Mohd Naroden Majais.

Adding on, Adenan said the same amount was sufficient to build 216 schools accommodating some 260,000 students.

As such, he added, all parties especially the parents, should take a larger role in inculcating good behaviour in the youngsters, emphasising that it was not enough to solely depend on formal education.

"Early education at home plays an important role too. One way to enhance rapport among family members is for parents to communicate more with their children so that they would not be easily led astray by some irresponsible people," Adenan said.

The programme, which was organised by Information Department in collaboration with Education Department, saw more than 100 secondary school students from Lundu and Betong attending.

Adenan advised the Information and Education departments to organise more similar workshop as it was the right platform to help instill good character and behaviour among the "Y Generation".

Earlier, state Information deputy director Zaini Mohamad said a new module for the workshop would be introduced soon, which would include the use of multimedia.

He also said each 1Malaysia Club across the state would also see an increase in allocation to RM1,200 from the current RM500.